

COVINGTON COUNTY

Honorable Frank "Trippy" McGuire

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Council Priorities

1. To provide more substance abuse prevention in Covington County.

Raise public awareness by bringing the message to the people of the county. Decrease drug usage in Covington County.

2. Increase positive adult/parental involvement in the lives of Covington County children to decrease child abuse and neglect.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Lack of parental involvement

Action Steps

- 1) Publicize the importance of birth to age five development.
- 2) Provide parents of newborns with information on development.

Need for school readiness

Action Steps

- 1) Concentrate on issues to provide parents with information about preparing children for school.
- 2) Support and expand reading programs offered through Covington Pediatrics Rural Health.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Lack of communication between county employers and potential employees

Action Steps

- 1) Serve on Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Job Fair planning committee.
- 2) Establish individual or committee to act as liaison with media to publicize economic security-related events and Children's Policy Council announcements and news.
- 3) Establish intercommunication between Children's Policy Council and Opp and Andalusia Chambers of Commerce and the Covington County Economic Development Commission.

Need for child care to enable parents to work

Action Steps

- 1) Invite "Kids and Kin" to present information about program to Children's Policy Council.
- 2) Update and continue publication and distribution of child-care resource directory.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Lack of qualified tutoring (affordable or free)

Action Steps

- 1) Establish websites or homework helpline for parents and children.
- 2) Expand tutoring in after-school programs.
- 3) Create peer-to-peer tutoring program.
- 4) Promote/facilitate parental involvement/concern.

Lack of parental involvement

Action Steps

- 1) Encourage parenting classes.
- 2) Increase parent participation in parent organizations.
- 3) Increase opportunities parents in learning how to teach their children.

Lack of importance placed on education

Action Steps

- 1) Create a mentoring program for at-risk youth.
- 2) Establish helpline for parents and students.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Negative impact of drugs on health

Action Steps

- 1) Continue Operation Save Teens program for all county schools.
- 2) Continue DARE program for elementary age students.
- 3) Explore options for adolescent drug treatment programs for this county.

Births to unmarried teens

Action Steps

- 1) Increase awareness of pregnancy-prevention programs by working with local health department, other agencies and media.
- 2) Encourage "Baby Think It Over" program in schools.
- 3) Continue to explore funding opportunities for promoting and developing teen pregnancy prevention programs.

Lack of transportation to medical appointments

Action Steps

- 1) Increase funding for affordable transportation to medical appointments.
- 2) Increase awareness for need of affordable transportation.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Lack of parental involvement in educating young children

Action Steps

- 1) Develop programs for parents that stress the importance of parents as educators.
- 2) Develop Covington County Youth Archery for local youth to provide family involvement.
- 3) Develop programs that stress the importance of moral values.

Lack of parental involvement in positive social activities with their children

Action Steps

- 1) Encourage local churches to develop social outreach programs for family involvement.
- 2) Develop family-to-family mentoring.
- 3) Continue to provide programs such as IMPACT, Save-a-Life, Youth Enrichment Program, and Prevention programs at South Central Alabama Mental Health.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Need for substance abuse prevention/intervention

Action Steps

- 1) Raise public awareness - take the message to the people.
- 2) Develop/foster/facilitate access to treatment.
- 3) Promote/facilitate parental involvement/concern.

Child abuse and neglect

Action Steps

- 1) Promote/facilitate parental involvement in counseling and training.
- 2) Network the court system with existing programs to achieve #1 above.
- 3) Increase resources to achieve #1 and #2 above.

Policy Recommendations

- Increase funding for parenting programs.
- Continue funding for Youth Enrichment Services Program.
- Keep drugs and violence prevention education in school systems.
- Reinstate full-time Career Center office in Covington County.
- Reinstate bus routes for students in the community college system.
- Provide more funding for expansion of supervision of individuals on probation and parole.
- Build more correctional facilities with intensive social rehabilitation programs.
- Fund after-care programs and programs for transition from incarceration to re-entry.

Accomplishments

Economic Security Committee

- Assisted with publicity for LBWCC Job Fair.
- Surveyed county to determine licensed child-care providers.
- Published directory of licensed child-care providers.
- Distributed directory of licensed child-care providers to other agencies and the public.

Health Committee

- DARE Program continued in all school in county.
- Public Health Department continued family planning services and has birth control and pregnancy counseling available at no charge.
- Local agencies continue to work in conjunction with Medicaid and Easter Seals to provide money for transportation.

Early Care and Education Committee

- Presented 5 Alabama Public Television Workshops with 25 participants each for child-care providers.
- LBWCC \$5000 in new scholarships available to day care employees held Fun Day.